



FEBRUARY 11, 1996

# THE GARZETTE



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

## The President's Pen

By Howie Gould, W4NVF

### The View From The Top

We wish to welcome all those new members who joined the GARS at the last club meeting making a grand total of 269 for those keeping statistics. This is the largest membership the club has ever had and it speaks of growth beyond expectation. With this growth comes many new hams and along with them many questions about the club and amateur radio in general. Are we providing them with the help and understanding we are capable of? I think so, but I am not so sure that we are doing all we can lately because of lack of interest in many aspects of the club and its operation. Newcomers are coming to us with hopes of learning more about the hobby and they want to get involved with activities of every nature pertaining to amateur radio. The bottom line folks is that we need to generate more than what we have

been doing in the past. We need to get out and have more classes on kit building, antenna building, operating procedures, packet radio, emergency communications, contesting, and other activities that produce help not only to the newcomers but to old timers alike needing some fresh spark to keep them going. We are getting into the doldrums again and we are in need of fresh ideas and people to run them. The officers of the club are not your activities committee although many of you out there may have that feeling. The officers will take fresh ideas and work them into something the club can do but they need volunteers to run them. So often I have said, you the members run the club, it is your membership supported dues that keep us going and we spend them believe me Yes it takes dedicated people to do the

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## Email, Snail Mail, Or Both?

Beginning with this issue, THE GARZETTE will be available via email. The electronic edition will contain all the articles and information as the printed issue but without the graphics. The move to an electronic edition was suggested by Don Button, AJ1T as a method of holding down monthly mailing costs. If you would like to receive your copy of THE GARZETTE via email please contact the editor at [ichapman@intergate.net](mailto:ichapman@intergate.net) to be added to the distribution list.

## GARS Ham Of The Month Bob Mauney, WB4RPM

By Pickett Cummins, AD4S

Bob is originally from Savannah but moved to Wrens when he was very young. All of his early schooling was in Wrens where he finished high school.

Bob was always interested in radio and electronics due to his father's work at the Augusta "Bomb Plant" (Savannah River Project) and he had an uncle that had been a ham at one time. Bob received a Hallifrazer's SX-99 for his 13<sup>th</sup> birthday and became an avid short wave listener. Bob still has that receiver and heaven only knows how old he is now.

At about this same time, Bob was inspired by the TV series "Sea Hunt" (think how old Lloyd Bridges must be by now). He became interested in scuba diving and that be-

gan to take up all of his spare time and money. He also discovered cars and girls about this time.

Bob had a great first car story. He worked in a grocery store in Wrens all through high school. His first car was a 1939 Chevy that he paid \$39 for. When he and three friends sent to pick it up, the clutch was in such bad shape that it took all of them to push it over the one big hill on the way back to his house.

When Bob finished high school, he went to Augusta College for a year and a half thinking he wanted to be a marine biologist (and do Sea Hunt). He decided that he needed more direction during his 2<sup>nd</sup> year there so he and a

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## THE GARZETTE

THE GARZETTE is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

Original articles, art and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible, submit items in ASCII text format by email to [ichapman@intergate.net](mailto:ichapman@intergate.net) or by posting a private message on the SA BBS (770) 236-7372, to Ike Chapman in the GARS conference. Use the Save Attached command and mark the security to receiver only. Art can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted on an IBM formatted disk or via email as a uuencoded file attachment.

Contact the editor for other format compatibility or other means of transfer. Deadline for submissions is the first of each month.

### GARZETTE Editor

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Thanks to Joe Biddle, AD4PZ for his assistance with the publication of THE GARZETTE by assisting with the copying, collating, and stapling of the newsletter. Joe also provides the digital scans for the artwork and photos seen in regularly in THE GARZETTE. Dean Matthews, AD4PZ provides support by maintaining the GARS copier and doing the copying of THE GARZETTE. Sue Chapman does the labeling, stamping, and makes sure each issue makes it to the Post Office.

My thanks to all of them for their help in producing THE GARZETTE.

All correspondence relating to articles posted in THE GARZETTE or for information concerning advertisement rates for THE GARZETTE should be directed to the following address:

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
P.O. Box 88  
Lilburn, GA 30226  
Attn: Newsletter Editor

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## THE GARZETTE

## Meeting Minutes

by Ike Chapman, KE4GYM

### In attendance:

President Howie Gould, W4NVF; Vice President Larry Osborne, KD4QFD; Secretary Ike Chapman, KE4GYM; Activities Manager David Adcock, KA4KKF

The meeting was called to order by President Gould at 19:36 local time at the Gwinnett Justice And Administration Center.

All members and visitors were asked to introduce themselves with a total of 58 persons signing the meeting log.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved as published in the December issue of THE GARZETTE.

The treasurers report was give by Charles Evans, WA4QYY and accepted as read.

Eddie Faust, WD4JEM gave a progress report on the remote receiver sites.

Joe Biddle, AD4PZ reported that the Field Day Committee had sent in the paper work to secure the Rhodes Jordan park for the Field Day again this year.

Ike Chapman, KE4GYM presented twelve new application for membership. A motion was made and seconded to accept all the applicants as GARS members. The motion passed without opposition. The new members are: Richard Flanders, N4DQR; Greg Yates, KB4YYJ; Beth Yates, KE4ZDH; Bob Smith, N3FTU; Benny Mitchell, KE4GXZ; Richard Head, KD4MQR; Bill Wall, KC4UZ; Harold Jaynes, KF4BUT; William Monroe, KE4QLE; Joseph Profeta, KB5ZJB; Randall Crain, KE4MLL; and Danny Bell, KC4OXP.

Don Button, AJ1T suggested that those members with email address could receive The GARZETTE via email to reduce the mailing costs for the club. Ike, KE4GYM said that would not be a problem since a text version was already produced and a mailing list was being maintained. Anyone interested in receiving The GARZETTE electronically should email a request to Ike at [ichapman@intergate.net](mailto:ichapman@intergate.net).

Charles Robison AD4MI presented Pickett Cummins, AD4S with a GARS Challenge certificate for completing the Participation Challenge.

Johnny Fearon, W4WKP presented the report of the nominating committee for the following slate of nominees: President - Howie Gould, W4NVF; Vice President - Larry Osborne, KD4QFD; Secretary - Bill Ahls, KE4EIH; Treasurer - Beverly Bryant, KE4VDI; Activities Manager - Charles Robison, AD4MI. President Gould asked for nominations from the floor and Ike, KE4GYM nominated Marty Fowler, KE4MLH for Activities Manager.

President Gould read a statement concerning some recent discussions concerning operating practices on the repeater.

The ticket raffle was won by Vince Hrabosky, AE4CQ.

The meeting was adjourned dent at 21:42 local time by President Gould.

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## GARS GROWS AGAIN!

Twelve new members were voted in at the January meeting.

Richard Flanders, N4DQR  
 Greg Yates, KB4YYJ  
 Beth Yates, KE4ZDH  
 Bob Smith, N3FTU  
 Benny Mitchell, KE4GXZ  
 Richard Head, KD4MQR  
 Bill Wall, KC4UZ  
 Harold Jaynes, KF4BUT  
 William Monroe, KE4QLE  
 Joseph Profeta, KB5ZJB  
 Randall Crain, KE4MLL  
 Danny Bell, KC4OXP

This brings the GARS membership to a total of 269 members.

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## HELP WANTED! GARS HAM OF THE MONTH COLUMNIST

Pickett Cummins, AD4S is retiring as columnist for one of the most popular monthly columns in THE GARZETTE.

The search is on for a replacement to become the new columnist for the HOM articles. Pickett has agreed to finish out the next several issues before hanging up the word processor.

If you are interested in becoming the next HOM columnist, contact the editor of THE GARZETTE at (770) 339-8123 for further information.

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## THE HAM VENT

An opportunity for GARS members to express themselves.

We are initiating a column similar to the VENT in the Atlanta Journal/Constitution. One or two sentence comments that are topical, humorous, in good taste will be published anonymously. You can send your comments to the GARS postal address unsigned or signed or you can send them to THE GARZETTE editor through his usual communications methods. You will not be identified when your comments are published.

There is no guarantee that your comments will be published but every effort will be made to be objective and impartial in the editing process.

We may not publish HamVent in every issue depending on how many comments have been received. The following comments are examples of what we are looking for:

"Why is it that some people don't understand that they don't understand that they don't understand that they don't understand"

"Why would a licensed amateur radio operator, who would take exception to someone operating without a license, get on the air and openly solicit pirated computer software. Both are violations of Federal Law."

"After several decades of ham radio, I have never heard profanity on CW."

So get your thinking caps on and give us your best shots...!

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## Contact GARS

### 1995-1996

### Officers

#### President

Howie Gould, W4NVF (770)921-8362

#### Vice President

Larry Osborne, KD4QFD (770)513-2799

#### Secretary

Ike Chapman, KE4GYM (770)339-8123

#### Treasurer

Charles Evans, WA4QYY (770)448-0930

#### Activities Manager

David Adcock, KA4KKF (770)963-5767

## Board Of Directors

Johnny Fearon, W4WKP (770)466-4038

Duane Hanson, KD4KCR (770)962-6086

Randy Drescher, AC4PD (770)925-3549

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### Newsletter Editor

Ike Chapman, KE4GYM (770)339-8123

### License Trustee

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### Awards Manager

Charles Robison, AD4MI (770)923-3610

### Repeater Chairman

Howie Gould, W4NVF (770)921-8362

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Johnny Fearon, W4WKP (770)466-4038

### Rookie Radio

Cheryl McClure, AE4HN (770)995-5159

### Field Day

#### Open

### Ham Classes

Steve Idler, KA9UIE (770)513-0428

### HF/VHF/UHF Awards Checker

Don Ennest, KS4WR (770)923-4851

### DXCC Checker

Frank Deak, AF4Y (770)978-6546

Neil Foster, KC4MJ (404)449-3340

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# This Old Shack



by Joe Biddle, AD4PZ

## RFI

### IT'S !@#%\$ EVERYWHERE!

Hopefully you enjoyed the last chapter of TOS on Power Distribution and didn't get too 'charged' over it. This month we'll look at Radio Frequency Interference in the shack. How and why should you try to get rid of something you've tried so hard to create so much of to begin with!

The intentions here will be to pass along some hints and tips and identify some additional sources on ways to reduce RFI and TVI where they are not wanted.

Identifying it first - Does it come in and wreak havoc with the picture on your television? How about through your audio speakers such as your stereo or telephones? How wide spread is it? Does it travel to your neighbors house and get into their speakers and/or television too?

Getting it all out - There are only a few methodologies to minimize RF around the shack where it is not wanted or needed.

**1. Don't produce RFI/TVI** - If you don't transmit you won't produce any RFI. Or if you transmit QRP you won't produce much. But these aren't really practical just to eliminate RFI. But perhaps upgrading to newer equipment with solid state circuitry might be just the ticket to cleaner transmissions.

**2. Shielding** - Blocking it out or holding it in. Different techniques may be used that may help contain or keep out the RF energy to where it is needed or not needed.

**3. Diverting** - If the RFI is getting into somewhere it shouldn't then perhaps diverting it, (usually to a ground potential) before it

causes additional problems may be in order.

Separate your equipment and antennas. If moving your antenna 30 feet further back in the property gives you freedom to use your telephone anytime without RFI, then why not. Instead of using some antennas that aren't really resonant on various bands like the G5RV which is notorious for throwing harmonics everywhere, try one or more that will resonate around your center frequency. Even re-routing the feed line may make all the difference.

Low Pass Filters may help knock down some interference coming out of the rig. There are many kinds too. There are some well made commercial types, some that are home brewed and some are even made with lengths of coax called: 'coax stubs'.

High Pass Filters on the other hand should be attached to the device that is receiving the interference. These may take the same shape as those in low pass configurations. Something as simple as a capacitor across a pair of speaker leads or a length of coax at the terminals of your television may solve your interference problems too.

Baluns are used to balance the impedance between the antenna and the feed line itself. Baluns tend to block RF from traveling back down the feed line to the transmitter, so the feed line doesn't like part of the radiating antenna which may produce spurious emissions.

Sometimes containing the feed line or a conductor somehow may be the answer. One shack visited had aluminum foil wrapped around the cords for his monitor.

It seems even one's computer monitor is not immune to the effects of RFI. But the foil did the trick. On a much larger scale you could route all of your feed lines (except ladder line), through part of your home's 'grounded' duct-work system if you have one.

Ferrite material in various forms can help "choke" that unwanted RFI too. I had an amplified speaker that just sounded awful every time I was on HF until I removed the audio-in wire to it. Since that became a hassle to do every time I wanted to transmit on HF, I put a Ferrite core on the audio-in line. Take one of these cores and wrap the RF carrier (audio, power etc. lines) around a few times and that is it. However I ended up using two of them, but I don't have the RFI problem anymore.

One technique may only reduce your interference just a little bit or cure it altogether, so don't give up. If a certain method doesn't get rid of all of it and what you tried doesn't interfere with anything, then try something else. Maybe a couple of methods tried will rid you of all RFI in and around your shack.

Again, the intent here was to pass along a few ideas and hints to cure or help to cure unwanted RF Interference, whether it is in your home or your neighbors home. Listed below are references to some great articles that you really should check out. They go into much more detail than could be done here and the research performed by these authors is wonderful.

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## Nominations For GARS Officers

by Ike Chapman

At the January meeting the following persons were nominated for office:

**President**  
Howie Gould, W4NVF  
**Vice President**  
Larry Osborne, KD4QFD  
**Secretary**  
Bill Ahls, KE4EIH  
**Treasurer**  
Beverly Bryant, KE4VDI  
**Activities Manager**  
Marty Fowler, KE4MLH  
Charles Robinson, AD4MI

The floor will be opened for additional nominations prior to the elections at the February Meeting. If you would like to run for one of these offices or have someone in mind bring you nomination to the meeting.

Also please don't forget that several committee chairman positions are open and need to filled at this meeting as well. If interested contact any of the officers for more information.

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Tip of the month - check out the articles in the following magazines:

- November 1995 issue of "QST" - Article "WATTS" Worked All Telephones, Televisions and Stereos.
- November 1995 issue of "CQ" - Actually there are two articles in this issue dealing with RFI (Radio Frequency Interference) and TVI.
- January 1996 issue of "73 Amateur Radio Today" - Has a good article dealing with RFI/TVI with the neighbors and how to handle their complaints.

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## GARS Members Confront Challenge

by Charles Robinson, AD4MI

Many have tried, some have made progress but none have conquered it completely. Arnold tried it on a mountain, Pickett tried it on Click and Spell, but Carlton did it anywhere he could.

What are they doing? Being good club members.

What is the biggest problem? Not enough help.

Doing what? Mostly talking on a radio.

Sounds easy? It is, talk to Joe (AD4PZ), Ike (KE4GYM), Pickett (AD4S) and Carlton (WA4ZUW). They have all received certificates of accomplishment. Picket has received 4 with Joe, Ike and Carlton receiving 2 each. I have issued 10 certificates so far and hope to issue 10 more in the next few months.

In March 1995 I (AD4MI, rightfully dubbed Mighty Idiot by Steve AD4LY) tried to find a way to challenge members with the fun of Amateur Radio. I found that most of the activities that our members are involved in fell in one of six categories. I took the 6 categories and came up with 10 Challenges. All Challenges can be achieved by Technician class operators through the help of a friend with a Tech Plus or higher class license. If you do not qualify or do not have the equipment to operate a particular mode, ask for help. There are many members, like myself, that would be glad to help. Many of us have invited members to our shacks and helped them make Packet and HF contacts. The whole idea of the Challenge was to get members to do things together.

### Challenge Hints

**VHF Simplex-** Try 146.505 during drive time, or 5 minutes before 7:00, 8:00, 9:00 PM. If you hear someone on the repeater, ask if they can go to simplex for a

contact. Participate in GARS events, most of us have our radios with us. (No one said that you have to be miles apart for a contact to count.)

**Packet-** Listen to the Wednesday night net on the repeater, some members are on packet at the same time.

**HF CW-** There are a lot of members on 28.150. Call CQ at 6:55, 7:55 and 8:55.

**HF SSB-** Call CQ at 6:55, 7:55 and 8:55.

**Not-GARS Challenge-** Try other 2 meter repeaters in the area.

### Participate

We need your ideas on how to increase participation in the Challenge activities. Let me know when and how you would like to do it. Here are a few suggestions:

#### Plan #1

Pronounce the week of February 19 through February 25 as the Challenge Scramble, 7:00 to 10:00 PM every night. The weekly nets and code practice would include the Challenge as the theme of the week.

#### Plan #2

One day each month. We could try a different mode each Monday of the month from 7:00 to 10:00 PM. Feb. 22 = Packet, Feb. 29 = HF Voice 28.350, March 4 = HF CW 28.150, March 11 = VHF on 146.505.

#### Plan #3

One week each month. The week of Feb. 22 = Packet, Feb. 29 = HF Voice, etc.

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### Random Ramblings

"It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others."

Unattributed

## The Gives And Takes Of Ham Radio

by Johnny Fearon, W4WKP

When I entered the hobby of ham radio, some 40+ years ago, I wouldn't have gotten my license without the help of Jack Hopton, W4MZO in 1952. Jack was president of the Atlanta Radio Club at the time. He took the time to teach me every day after school. When I came to him well prepared, I received a special reward. I got to talk on the air, running 500 watts of power.

I have been looking through the data base of the hams in the Gwinnett area. Some of the new ones coming along certainly will need some help. I have also noticed another phenomenon. It is not unlikely to see some hams with year of birth before 1936. Some of them are able to drive themselves to the meeting, if they so choose. Some others wouldn't attend if you sent a taxi for them. There are probably some others in our area who don't see at night to drive and would really appreciate a lift. You might be surprised at what you would gain by getting to know some of these older fellows and gals. Many times, age is one of the signs of wisdom.

We probably could learn a lot from the older hams, not only about radio, but just about life in general. A failure on our part to get to know these people, only shortchanges us. One of the most wonderful friends I have made is my neighbor, Carm, K1CFW. He can't see much better than I can, and is afraid to drive at night. Between he and I, we get to most of the meetings with no problem, with a little help from Bill, my driver. You will be surprised at the new friends you might make. After all, do any of us find ourselves with too many friends? Isn't ham radio something from which many of us have gained?

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## Ham Of The Month Bob Mauney, WB4RPM

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buddy decided to join the Navy and see the world. When the two of them went for their physicals, Bob's buddy backed out and did not join. Bob joined for 4 years.

One thing he did get that he wanted was boot camp in San Diego (he had never been out of the Southeast) and a slot in aircraft electronics. After boot camp, Bob was assigned to Iceland. (he had to look on a map to see where it was). He was only there for one year and the good thing was that it counted as sea duty.

He then spent a year with a squadron in Rhode Island and was then assigned to carrier duty off the coast of Vietnam during that memorable unpleasantness. He spent his last year in this assignment. While Bob spent most of his time in the electronics shop, he wound up doing considerable flying also. He was part of a four man crew that went with the attack aircraft to help defeat the electronic systems on SAM missiles. They used a spectrum analyzer to detect SAM launches and then dialed in the frequency and transmitted jamming signals. Interestingly enough, when the electronic jamming didn't work, they were responsible for releasing the aluminum foil "chaff" from dispensers out on the wings of the plane.

Bob said he really like the shop work because there was a lot of equipment and parts and he didn't have any of his money involved.

Bob went out to his Vietnam assignment on the U.S.S. Lexington which was the last of the straight deck carriers and went through the Suez Canal during the Israeli/Egypt conflict. No one was allowed on deck except the Marines during that passage. They were the last ship to get through the canal. The ship be-

hind them was sunk to block all traffic. He was also on board the Intrepid and the Oriskany. He was due to transfer to the Forrestal when it exploded. He watched all the explosions from his ship and helped take some of the people off of the Forrestal.

During one of his liberty trips back home, Bob married his high school sweetheart. When his tour was up and it was time to muster out, he had a chance to reup and get the tax free bonus. He decided that he didn't want to wait another 60 days to get home and see his wife so he mustered out and came back to Georgia to seek his fortune.

Bob began looking around southeast Georgia for the right job. He looked at opportunities at Ft. Gordon also, but there was not much to chose from in that area. He wound up interviewing with NCR thinking that his electronic training would help only to find out that they wanted him to service electro-mechanical cash registers. He and NCR parted ways at the end of the interview. Like a lot of folks, Bob decided to come up to the big city to seek his fortune. Interestingly enough, he wound up working for Lanier Products which was a fairly small company in the dictating equipment business at that time. KS4LS, KS4EP and AD4PZ all work for the BIG Lanier Products Company now.

One of Lanier's clients that Bob visited regularly was Scientific Atlanta. He always enjoyed going through their electronics lab area and after about a year at Lanier, he moved over to S.A.. He was going to school at Southern Tech and Lanier wanted to move him to Mississippi so he didn't have any trouble making his decision to move..

He got interested again in ham radio because of all the hams at S.A. Many of them used to visit Ack Radio all the time when Tommy Ack had all the old

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nostalgia equipment on display. On one visit, he actually bought a Central Electronics 20 A SSB exciter even though he did not have his license yet. He later sold it because he didn't think he could learn the code.

Fortunately for Bob (and Ham Radio) he wound up in a department where nearly everyone was a ham. The leading Elmer was Randy Rhea who is now N4HI and lives in the Stone Mountain area. He had the entire lab copying code all day long, lunch breaks included. Bob went ahead and did the impossible; he learned the code. Bob began building Heath test equipment and thinks he still has one of everything they ever produced. (remember the SX-99). He got his novice license as WVN4RPM and got on the air with a Heath HW-16 and single band dipole and a Dentron tuner and guess what? He still has that equipment.

Shortly thereafter, Bob went down to the FCC on Peachtree street and upgraded to General Class and became WB4RPM. It was time for a reward and while Bob had been looking at an ATLAS 350 over at Ack's, he wound up getting a new Kenwood TS 520S and he still has it.

Bob became real interested in DX CW. and back before there was such a thing as a DX Cluster, Bob and some friends created a manual one on 2 meter simplex. Each member of the group was responsible for monitoring a particular band and posting any DX they heard on the simplex frequency. They kept dupe sheets and lists of what countries and bands individuals in the group needed. he said it really worked great.

After 20 years with S.A., Bob said he had 19.5 great years but the company was changing and he decided to move on. He found a new opportunity at Bell South

who had gotten into the fiber optic transmission business for connecting up residences. He went to work there and worked with a well know Bell figure, Dick Snelling, who predicted the tremendous use of fiber for voice and data transmission. Bob felt he was about 5 years ahead of his time. Bob is presently involved in the Bell South test in the Chamblee/Dunwoody area that will provide switched digital 2 way interactive video on a fiber link.

You know, I bet Bob could provide a really interesting program at one of the regular GARS meetings.

Bob got his Extra about 1993. He said he was inspired by Duane, KD4KCR, who was really going after the upgrades about that time. He rewarded himself with an Icom 751-A which he has added the automatic tuner to. He continues to use wire antennas with a 160 meter dipole and a "fan" multi-band dipole. He had thought about putting up a tower and beam but wound up selling the antenna to Carlton, WA4ZUW. (so it is still in the GARS family). He still has the tower sections and is thinking

about putting up a Quad now. He wants to get a GEM Quad out of Canada but is waiting for some one or two others to order from this area so he can split the \$150 shipping cost. (anyone out there interested in a new quad..?) Bob has a Kenwood TS50S and automatic tuner in his vehicle.

Bob has been an officer of GARS having served a year as the Club Secretary. He likes what the Club is doing and hopes they continue to do public events such as parades and races.

Bob is now married to Mary and has one daughter in the Snellville area. He also has 2 granddaughters. He is still doing the scuba thing having gotten into cave diving in recent years. He says that takes a lot of time and money also. He is also an amateur astronomer and has a 90 mm equatorial mounted telescope out on the hill there in Jefferson.

If you have not met Bob, look for him on the 80 meter Breakfast Club net during morning drive time or on the GARS repeater in the afternoon. You will know it's Bob because he has one of those great voices that sounds like he is about to break into a laugh at any minute. GARS and Amateur Radio is fortunate to count Bob among their number. Take the time to meet him at one of the forthcoming GARS functions.



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Dwayne  
Scurlock

James  
Benson

## The Gives And Takes Of Ham Radio

(Continued from page 6)

Isn't it time we try and give a little back? Think about it, it may not work for you, but I know it sure is an enjoyable experience for me and I thought it was worth sharing.



## President's Pen

(Continued from page 1)

things a club of this size should be doing and there is no doubt that it takes volunteer time to produce results but is necessary for our survival so please pitch in won't you?

### January Meeting A Success

The club held it's January meeting at the Gwinnett Justice And Administration Center in the main auditorium and it was a good turn out even for the rain and wind. We had about 50 attend the session and although we had no program, we did enjoy ourselves. We will be meeting there again this month for our elections and the program will be on a DX trip to Egypt which should be interesting. Picket, AD4S gave the straight key results and brought some old radio equipment to show of interest to everyone. It was good seeing all the many faces of the club enjoying themselves and it would have been better if those of you who did not show were there. So try and make the February meeting wont you?

### Kit Building A Success

Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> Howie Lab traveled to Bob, N3FTU's home base in Suwanee where 40 meter CW kits were put together by Earl, KE4TXZ, David, KA4KKF, Bev, KE4VVDI and Bob, N3FTU. It was a delightful day and Bob's XYL and himself were great hosts allowing us to use their great big basement set up with tables and everything needed to accommodate this big kit class. Before you get any

ideas of your own, let me say that this kit was a state of the art up to date with the smallest parts any one could imagine. There was one master circuit board that all the components had to be mounted on. The components were so small in some instances that a magnifying glass had to be used in order to see the color codes on resistors and part numbers on the sides of diodes. It was a good thing the supplier gave a pictorial of most of the parts as it would have been difficult to tell them apart without it. David, KA4KKF had his own magnifying glass mounted on his head. Earl, KE4TXZ got off to a rough start with his soldering iron until he got the hang of it and then he was ready for business. I had brought my own Weller soldering station for Bev, KE4VDI to use. Junior, KE4VWN was there and he helped out greatly winding some torroid coils for Bev and other things. Lunch was served by our hosts which was great and then it was back to work. I had to leave around 5 PM with Junior, so I did not stay for the final countdown but I am told all went well except for a few small mistakes made which if you saw the kit would understand.

This is the sort of thing I have been talking about when it comes to activities for the club and I highly recommend it as a tool for learning of what components go into a piece of amateur radio equipment, the feel of a soldering iron in your hand, the winding of

coils having a primary and secondary and other specific things that you learn when you put together a kit of this nature. This is truly the spirit of amateur radio at it's best and we need to keep up the interest.

## LATE BREAKING NEWS

Thanks to the efforts of Howie, W4NVF, Eddie, WD4JEM, and others too numerous to name the remote receivers are online and operational. Both the Goshen Springs site and the Bogan Road site went operational on Saturday, February 10.

In order to take advantage of the remote receiver sites a PL tone of 82.5 must be programmed into your radio. Signals without the PL tone will only be captured by the main site in Lawrenceville.

Thanks to all those that worked on this project.

### Wire Donated To Club

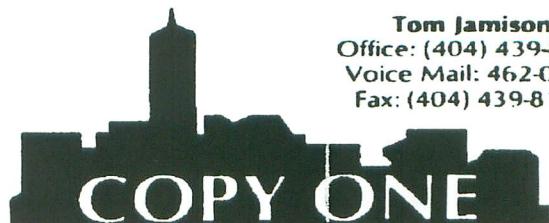
Without going into details, the club has been given about 10,000 feet of what we think is galvanized zinc cable wire that is about the size of a number 10 or

(Continued on page 9)

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*(Continued from page 8)*

8 wire which is very flexible and can be used for antennas and things. This is for the use of any member and all you have to do is to tell us what you want it for and how much. We at this time have no limit on how much you can use but it must be for yourself. The cable is very flexible and could be used for light guy wire situations.

#### Snellville Tower And Building Damaged

On Friday January 26<sup>th</sup> the GARS owned 90 foot tower and repeater building sustained damage by the sub contractor working at the site related work as an independent. The backhoe which they use backed into the tower hitting the base with the tracks of the backhoe damaging the tower severely and moving the repeater shack back a few inches along with damage to the roof line where the tower was attached. We did not know about this until Sunday when Steve, KB4ZTN called me and said he had received a complaint that the packet node was not working good and upon his inspection found the damage. I went with Steve to Snellville to verify this and found it was indeed as he reported to me. I later on that Sunday evening called upon the services of Bill, KR4KT to investigate the site and find evidence of what vehicle did the damage. We with flashlights in hand, covered the area and found what we thought at the time the vehicle with damage that was related to

our damage. We called the GCPD and had a police report made out. We got out of Snellville before midnight and had a cup of coffee together before heading home. The next day Monday, I went back to remove the 440 repeater and other GARS equipment with Eddie, WD4JEM. We at that time found out through the contractor's supervisor that they had done the damage. He had called Snellville police and county water department but could not find out who owned the equipment from these sources. It appears that they have insurance and will cover all the damages for us. Meanwhile, the tower has to come down and we at this time are not sure of what we are going to do after it is down. The SNELLV packet node will be off the air and so will we with our 440 machine. We had a standing agreement with the county to remove the 90 foot tower so we could relocate to the 160 foot tower and new building but with the vandals creating so much damage we held off. Now under the circumstances, we are obligated to concentrate on using the 160 foot tower and building with beefing up of a secure way to do it. This will take a lot of planning.

I hope to see you all at the February meeting to cast your vote for the new officers for 96. If you have a favorite candidate, get his or her permission to be nominated and do it at this meeting, it is your last chance.

73  
Howie W4NWF

## Dalton Hamfest

by Johnny Fearon, W4WKP

Give some thought to February. What is happening interesting besides a GARS meeting? There is one very enjoyable and worth while event. It is the Dalton hamfest, in Dalton Ga. It will be February 24, at the Whitfield County fair grounds.

You may ask yourself "Since I'm a new ham, why should I go up there?" You might want to consider attending the Dalton hamfest for the following reasons. If you are a new ham, you might be looking for some gear. You might not be able to find some used gear. Much gear is bought, sold and traded. The attendees are very friendly, for the most part.

You may be an old ham and wonder why you should make the trip. After all, you aren't looking to buy any gear. You might have some old gear you no longer use. Many new hams attend the Dalton fest and are looking for that gear that you no longer need.

If you aren't looking to buy or sell anything, then why should you make the trip? You might like to see some old ham friends you haven't seen in a while. The talk in frequency is 147.135. It would certainly be a fun hamfest to all go in a caravan and chat on the way up and back. If you aren't interested in gear or friends, just go to see the sights. There is something for everyone. You won't regret it.

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## Work GARS

**REPEATERS**  
2-Meter 147.075 MHz <sup>+500</sup>  
PL 82.5  
70-cm 444.525 MHz <sup>+5MHz</sup>  
PL 156.7

**TELEPHONE BBS**  
GARS Conference in  
Scientific-Atlanta BBS  
(770) 236-7372

**6-METER BEACON**  
WA4IOB 6 Meter Beacon at  
50.075 MHZ

**PACKET**  
WD4JXR-6 / SNELLV Packet  
Node/Digipeater 145.03 MHz

**SWAP, WANTED and SELL NET**  
Tuesdays at 8:00PM on the  
GARS 2m Repeater.

**MORSE CODE PRACTICE**  
An interactive Morse Code practice session follows the 8:00PM Tuesday night net on the GARS 2m repeater.

**PACKET RADIO USERS NET**  
Wednesdays at 8:00 PM on the GARS  
2m Repeater.

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## Rookie Radio Notes

by Cheryl McClure, AE4HN

When I joined GARS in December, 1993 there were just over 100 members and I was waiting for my license to arrive from the FCC (it took 3 months back then to get your call sign). I was brand new to amateur radio and very eager to learn anything and everything. I was also determined to upgrade my license as soon as possible. The club had just elected Howie Gould, W4NVF, to his first term as President and change was in the air. I learned a lot by attending the meetings, but I was still hungry to learn more.

In March, 1994 I wrote a letter to Howie proposing the formation of a group within GARS of inexperienced hams. I thought perhaps the other new hams might be as eager to learn more about the various facets of amateur radio as I was. I proposed to place a notice in the newsletter to ask what subjects the other new hams wanted to learn about. Then I would search out an experienced ham who had knowledge of this area to teach us. I offered Howie examples of subjects that I was interested in such as visiting an HF station, having a parking lot tour of mobile rigs, or building dipole antennas. Howie called and invited me to the next executive meeting to discuss this idea and Rookie Radio was born.

Since then we have built antennas, a signal tracer, and radio kits. There has been Packet Radio

and HF demonstrations. Rookies have been solicited to help with and learn from Ham Radio demonstrations and Field Day. I write this column monthly to solicit more ideas from the membership on what kind of classes they want and to point out any opportunities that may be coming up for a learning experience.

The response of the experienced hams in GARS has been fantastic. Howie himself has led two "Howie Labs" building a signal tracer and 40 meter QRP kits. Our Vice President Larry Osborne, KD4QFD, is preparing to lead his third antenna building workshop. Former newsletter editor Dean Matthews, AD4OD, led our Packet demonstration. Duane Hanson, KD4KCR, has held three classes teaching Morse Code from zero to twenty words per minute. He also started the code practice sent over the GARS repeater before Rookie Radio even began. He and Steve, AD4LY, ran it twice a week for over a year. Since then it has been sent by many GARS members including Steve, KS4EV, David, KA4KKF, Howie, W4NVF, Johnny, W4WKP, Beverly, KE4VDI and me, AE4HN.

If you are a new ham, don't let these opportunities slide by. Tell me what you want to learn and I will find an expert who will be happy to share his expertise

## Ham License Plate Renewal Information

by Ike Chapman, KE4GYM

According to the Georgia Department of Motor Vehicles, new license plates will be issued to all vehicles in 1997. This means that if you currently have your amateur radio license plate you will need to reapply this year for your new plate next year.

To apply, obtain a form MV-9 from your county tag office and mail it to the address listed on the form between June 1, 1996 and October 31, 1996. You must include a copy of your current FCC license with your tag request but no fee is required.

After approval, the state will notify you in writing and you can then pick up your new tag in 1997.

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with you. If it's HF experience you want, volunteer to help out with a community amateur radio demonstration or Field Day. Just watch this column monthly and listen on the weekly GARS net for more opportunities.

This March, Rookie Radio will be two years old. It may have started with my letter to Howie, but it has been bolstered along the way by many GARS members. This club has taken up the challenge of assisting new hams. Congratulations to all the GARS members who made it happen!

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GARS Membership Application

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3RD THURSDAY

**East Atlanta LAN**  
Scott Blvd Baptist Church in Decatur. Meeting is at 10:00AM. Talk in - 145.410(-)

**Second Saturday East Atlanta LAN**

**Afford Memorial Radio Club**  
ELKS Lodge on Memorial Drive. Dinner at 6:00PM Meeting  
at 7:30PM. Talk in - 146.760(-)

Second Thursday

**North Fulton Radio League** Alpha Soda Restaurant, Haynes Bridge Road, Alpharetta. Dinner at 6:30PM Meeting at 7:30PM

Second Wednesday

**Atlanta Radio Club**  
Kittredge Magnet School, North Druid Hills Rd.  
Klift. Meeting is at 7:30PM Takl in -146.820(-)

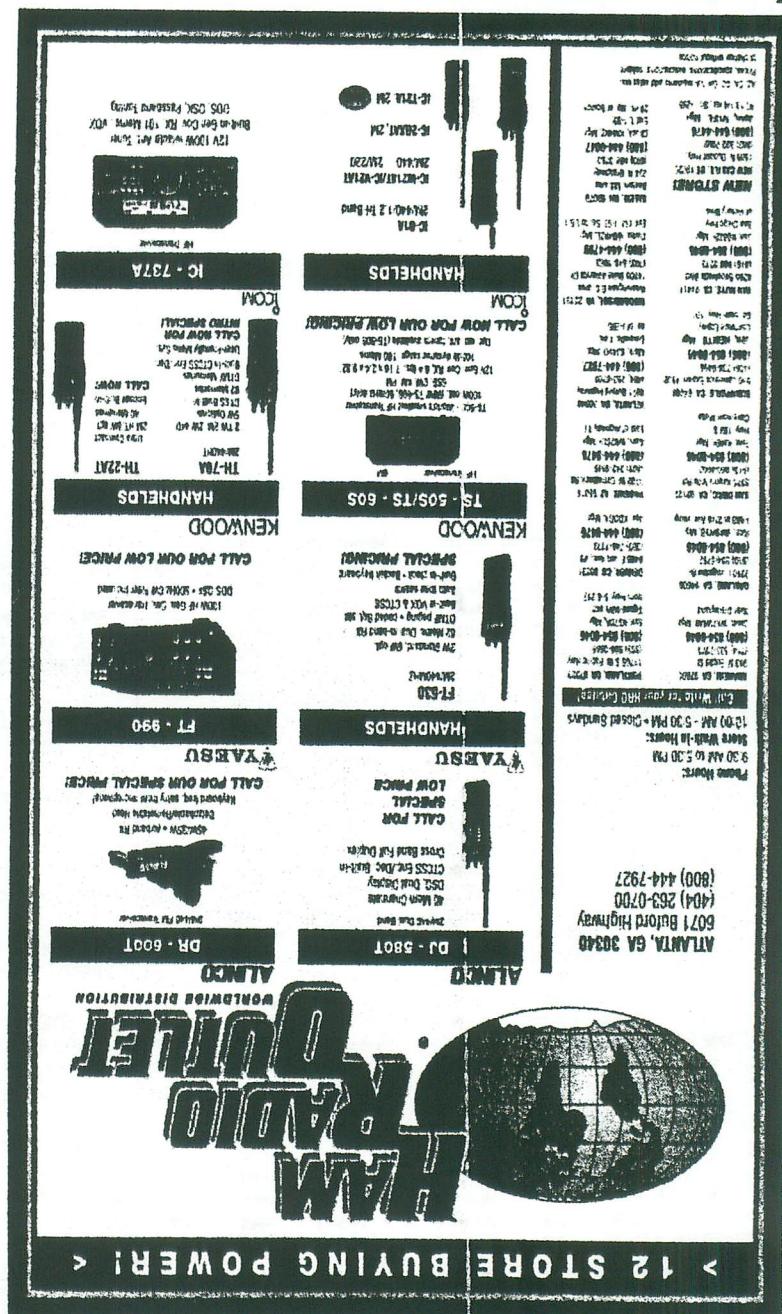
N.E. Ga. ARC  
1151 Tullis Road  
Memorial Center, off I-75 at 6:30PM.

Shoney's, 11690 Alpharetta Hwy., Roswell. Dinner at 6:30PM. Meeting at 7:30PM

First Wednesday HamWatch

Old Hickory House, 5490 Chamberlain-Dunwoody Rd, Dunwoody, Ga 30338-4101. (404) 951-1454.

## Metro Atlanta Club Meetings



## Metro Atlanta Test Sessions

## Metro Area Nets And Roundtables

**GARS** Publishes Metro Area VE/VEC Exam Schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions.

1st Sunday - 2:00PM - W5YI-VEC Duane Reynolds, WB2YAD - 623-9803 Jackson EMC, 461 Swanson Road, Lawrenceville

1st Monday - 7:30PM - Delaine McCarthy, KM4FV - 993-9758 Roswell ARRL-VEC St. Ann Catholic Church - 4905 Roswell Rd - Marietta

1st Saturday - 9:00AM - George White, KN4NG 361-6850 Clayton Co. Emergency Mgmt. Bldg. 7496 N. McDonough St. - Jonesboro

2nd Sundays - 3:00PM - Mike Mahaffey, AD4QB - 974-7710 First Presbyterian Church 183 West Main Street, Cartersville

2nd Tuesday - 7:00PM - Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA 498-7759 Walton EMC 3645 - Lenora Church Rd, Snellville

2nd Saturday - 8:30AM - Stn. Mtn. CA-VEC Hal Martin, KI4RD - 978-9160 Stone Mountain Methodist Church - 5312 West Mountain St., Stone Mtn.

3rd Saturdays - 9:00AM - Larry Huff, WA4CQZ - 955-3171 Marietta First United Methodist Church 56 Whitlock Ave, Room 319

4th Sunday- 2:30PM- N Atlanta ARRL/VEC- Steve Schmidt, KR4DL - 242-6142 Episcopal Church of the Atonement - Highpoint Rd, Atlanta

4th Tuesday - 7:00PM QRV ARRL-VEC Shirley Durham, KR4KO - 949-9025 United Way Service Center - 6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville, GA

**4th Friday GARS W5YI-VEC - 7:00PM**  
- St. John Neumann Church  
801 Tom Smith Rd, off Five Forks Trickum Rd, Lilburn  
Howie Gould, W4NVF 921-8362 Headphones!

Mon	147.21+	8:00PM	Conyers ARES Net t-162.2
Mon	145.45-	8:00PM	ARES Net (Decatur)
Mon	145.47-	8:00PM	North Fulton ARL Net
Mon	145.41-	8:30PM	MATPARC Net
Mon	3.975	8:00PM	Swap Net
Tue	147.075+	8:00PM	GARS Weekly Net
Tue	147.075+	9:00PM	GARS CW Practice
Tue	145.47-	10:30PM	Insomniac Net
Wed	147.075+	8:00PM	GARS Packet Net
Wed	145.41-	8:00PM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Wed	146.67-	9:00PM	LARC Net
Wed	146.655-	9:00PM	BSRG Net t-188.8
Thu	146.88-	8:00PM	Kennahoochee ARC
Thu	147.225+	8:00PM	NE Ga ARC
Thu	147.15	8:00PM	simplex
Thu	145.41-	9:30PM	AMSAT
Thu	Cable57	9:30PM	Amateur Television, ATV
Fri	3.898	8:00PM	GA Traders Net
Fri	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sat	7.275	8:00AM	Swap Net
Sat	3.857	9:00AM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Sat	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sun	147.075+	8:00PM	Gwinnett ARES Net
Sun	146.82-	8:00PM	ARC Net
Sun	146.76-	7:00PM	Roundtable AMRC t-107.2
Sun	7.275	9:00AM	GA Traders Net
Sun	3.983	5:00PM	GA ARES
Daily	146.76-	Noon	Brown Bag Net t-107.2
Daily	146.88-	11:00PM	Late Nite Owl Net
Daily	146.79-	8:00PM	Sassafrass Mtn.
Daily	3.975	6:00PM	WX & Skywarn

This is a "living list", meaning t is constantly changing. If you know of additions or changes to it please contact the Editor.

# THE GARZETTE

FEBRUARY 11, 1996

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
P.O. Box 88  
Lilburn, GA 20336



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**GARS meets the third Thursday of each month at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville. The next meeting will be on February 15 at 7:30 P.M.**